

Application No. 09/735,762  
Filed: December 13, 2000  
Group Art Unit: 1746  
Confirmation No.: 6659

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. - 11. (Canceled)

1 12. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a dry-cleaning  
2 system, comprising:

3 disposing substrates to be dry-cleaned into a cleaning  
4 vessel;

5 evacuating air and water vapor from the interior of the  
6 cleaning vessel to the atmosphere;

7 equalizing the pressure establishing a first gas flow path  
8 between a first storage vessel containing a dry-cleaning medium  
9 and the cleaning vessel for equalizing the internal pressures of  
10 the first storage vessel and the cleaning vessel;

11 de-establishing the first gas flow path;

12 establishing a first liquid fluid flow path between a second  
13 storage vessel containing the dry-cleaning medium and the cleaning  
14 vessel and a second gas flow path through a compressor between the  
15 cleaning vessel and the second storage vessel for conveying the  
16 liquid dry-cleaning medium from a-the second storage vessel to the  
17 cleaning vessel and for extracting gaseous dry-cleaning medium  
18 from the cleaning vessel into the second storage vessel;

19 de-establishing the first liquid and second gas flow paths;

20 agitating the substrates in the cleaning vessel;

21 establishing a second liquid flow path between the cleaning  
22 vessel and the second storage vessel and a third gas flow path  
23 through a compressor between the second storage vessel and the  
24 cleaning vessel for conveying liquid dry-cleaning medium from the

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25 cleaning vessel to the second storage vessel and for returning  
26 gaseous dry-cleaning medium to the cleaning vessel;  
27 de-establishing the second liquid and third gas flow paths;  
28 establishing a fourth gas flow path through a compressor  
29 between the cleaning vessel and the first storage vessel for  
30 evacuating gaseous dry-cleaning medium from the cleaning vessel to  
31 the first storage vessel;  
32 de-establishing the fourth gas flow path; and  
33 raising-adjusting the cleaning vessel internal pressure to  
34 atmospheric pressure by admitting air into the cleaning vessel.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein  
2 equalizing the pressure-establishing the first gas flow path, the  
3 first fluid flow path, and the second fluid flow path each  
4 comprises selectively operating a compressor and valves associated  
5 with conduits interconnecting the first-respective first or second  
6 storage vessel and the cleaning vessel.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein ~~conveying~~  
2 the dry-cleaning medium-establishing the second, third and fourth  
3 gas flow paths each comprises selectively operating a-the  
4 compressor and valves associated with conduits interconnecting the  
5 second-respective first or second storage vessel and the cleaning  
6 vessel.

1 15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein  
2 establishing the first gas flow path further includes establishing  
3 a first gas flow path through a compressor for conveying liquid  
4 gaseous dry-cleaning medium comprises selectively operating a

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5 ~~compressor and valves associated with conduits interconnecting the~~  
6 ~~second storage vessel and into the cleaning vessel.~~

1 16. (Canceled)

1 17. (Canceled)

1 18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein  
2 ~~evacuating gaseous dry-cleaning medium further establishing the~~  
3 fourth gas flow path comprises conducting the gaseous dry-cleaning  
4 medium through a heat exchanging conduit disposed within the  
5 cleaning vessel.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein  
2 ~~evacuating gaseous dry-cleaning medium further establishing the~~  
3 fourth gas flow path comprises conducting the gaseous dry-cleaning  
4 medium through an aperture into a lower portion of the first  
5 storage vessel ~~to enable thereby enabling~~ heat transfer from the  
6 gaseous dry-cleaning medium to liquid dry-cleaning medium ~~already~~  
7 disposed in the first storage vessel.

1 20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein ~~said~~  
2 ~~first storage vessel is maintained further comprising the step of~~  
3 maintaining the first storage vessel at a temperature below that  
4 of the second storage vessel.

1 21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said  
2 method further comprises the step of heating the second storage  
3 vessel and contents thereof with a trim heater.

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1 22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said  
2 method further comprises the step of cooling the first storage  
3 vessel and contents thereof with a cooling element.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said  
2 dry-cleaning medium is liquid carbon dioxide.

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